

**BERNARD GEIS  
ASSOCIATES  
PUBLISHERS**

130 EAST 56th ST., NEW YORK 22, N.Y. • PLAZA 2-1975 • CABLE: GEISBOOKS

February 25, 1966

Mr. Daniel Ellsberg  
American Embassy  
APO 96243  
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Ellsberg:

We are particularly disappointed in your declining our suggestion for expanding your Vietnam Diary into a book because it seems to us that, paradoxically, you have based your decision on all the reasons that argue in favor of your doing such a book. There is nothing that would better serve the over-all objectives of the Foreign Service and the Defense Department than the kind of book you would produce!

We would very much appreciate your giving this point some serious thought and discussing it with your associates. With the American public hungry for the kind of information you are in a position to provide, it seems to us that this mission is comparable in urgency to those in the military sector. We would, in fact, hope that your associates feel sufficiently affirmative to grant you a leave of absence for the express purpose of completing the book.

If the project is approved, I imagine that you might want to assign part of your royalties to the widow of Jerry Rose. We would be glad to match this with a voluntary contribution of our own.

Cordially,

*Bernard Geis*

Bernard Geis

BG/jr



Dear Mr. Geis,

~~It's sorry~~ Your pursuit is flattering, but I'm afraid ~~you've missed~~ your logic misses the point: FSO's really don't write human-interest books, or other kinds, either on duty or leave of absence (at least, I don't think so; I don't know too much about being an FSO, in fact, but ~~for~~ my intuition is pretty strong on this point) and, what's more important, I am otherwise usefully occupied over here. <sup>I</sup> I sympathize with the American public's hunger for information, but at the moment I am trying to satisfy the US Government's hunger (which is why my reply is so delayed; I've been out of town); the American public will have to rely on five or six hundred other fellows in ~~Saigon~~ town. Perhaps it <sup>will</sup> hear from me sometime in the distant future, "when the war is over" (<sup>since</sup> we ~~don't~~ all reenlist again).

Sincerely yours,